

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 140014Z NOV 74
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7395
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5002

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, UN, XF
SUBJ: SYG LUNCHEON FOR PRES FRANJIEH NOV 14

1. AT CLOSE OF ASSEMBLY THIS AFTERNOON SYG WALDHEIM ASKED ME INTO HIS OFFICE TO SAY THAT PRES FRANJIEH OF LEBANON HAD, WITHOUT CHECKING WITH WALDHEIM, INVITED ARAFAT TO LUNCHEON SYG GIVING FOR FRANJIEH NOV 14.

2. WALDHEIM UNDERSTANDS, NOT DIRECTLY, THAT ARAFAT'S REACTION WAS POSITIVE AND HE WOULD NOW LIKE TO STAY FOR LUNCH. WALDHEIM SAYS HE HAS BEEN PUT IN VERY DIFFICULT POSITION AND ASKED WHETHER US ON SECURITY OR OTHER GROUNDS WOULD BE ABLE TO HEAD OFF ARAFAT ATTENDANCE.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT US HAD ACCDED TO MANY UNREASONABLE DEMANDS OF PLO IN ARRANGING FOR THEIR APPEARANCE HERE BUT THAT IF WE TRIED TO PERSUADE ARAFAT TO LIMIT HIS ACTIVITIES WITHIN UN ENVIRONMENT WE WOULD BE ACCUSED OF SEEKING UNREASONABLE RESTRICTIONS ON HIS ACTIVITIES. AMB SCHAUFELE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH WE HAD BENT OVER BACKWARD TO PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE TO PLO, VOICE OF ARABS WAS NOW BROADCASTING CLAIM THAT USG WAS TRYING TO CIRCUMSCRIBE PLO ACCESS TO OTHER DELS.

4. I SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS HIS RESPONSIBILITY TO DECIDE AND NOTED THAT LEBANESE HAVE CREATED PROBLEM. PERHAPS

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HE SHOULD TALK WITH AMB GHORRA OF LEBANON AND AMB MEGUID

OF EGYPT.

5. WALDHEIM AGREED BUT ASKED WHAT HE COULD DO IF THESE
EFFORTS WERE UNAVAILING. I SUGGESTED THAT HE MAKE IT KNOWN
DISCREETLY BUT PUBLICLY THAT ARAFAT HAD NEVER BEEN INVITED
TO LUNCH BY SYG AND HIS ATTENDANCE WAS AT REQUEST OF GUEST
OF HONOR WHO IS CHIEF OF STATE.

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